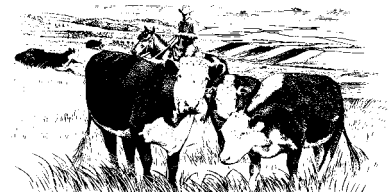


# California Livestock Review



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## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 9 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 10.52 million head on March 1, 2003. The inventory was down 9 percent from the 11.52 million head on March 1, 2002 and 10 percent below March 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.66 million, 8 percent below 2002, but 5 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.59 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 263 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 376 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 597 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 421 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.73 million, 4 percent below 2002 and 1 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 71.0 thousand head during February, 13 percent above 2002, but 12 percent below 2001.

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 470 thousand head on March 1, 2003, down 1 percent from both last month and March 2002. During February, placements of 54.0 thousand head were 2 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 56.0 thousand head were 12 percent above February of 2002. Other disappearance totaled 3.00 thousand head.

## NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES

NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000 CATTLE FEEDLOTS IN SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES							
State	Number On Feed February 1 1/			Placed During February		Marketed During February	
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	311	291	94	26	22	26	31
California	475	475	100	55	54	50	56
Colorado	1,180	1,030	87	190	170	210	200
Idaho	320	285	89	58	50	61	54
Iowa	395	360	91	57	58	51	56
Kansas	2,450	2,220	91	435	410	450	370
Nebraska	2,290	2,220	97	370	330	350	350
New Mexico 2/	109	114	105	12	11	11	12
Oklahoma 2/	350	330	94	55	46	59	55
South Dakota	200	215	108	45	40	34	39
Texas 2/	2,850	2,600	91	410	370	400	395
Washington	237	180	76	43	31	50	30
Other States	405	340	84	54	65	49	77
United States 2/	11,572	10,660	92	1,810	1,657	1,801	1,725
State	Other Disappearance During February 3/		Number On Feed March 1 1/		2003/2002		
	2002	2003	2002	2003			
	1,000 Head					Percent	
Arizona	1	3	310	279	90		
California	5	3	475	470	99		
Colorado	10	10	1,150	990	86		
Idaho	2	1	315	280	89		
Iowa	1	2	400	360	90		
Kansas	15	20	2,420	2,240	93		
Nebraska	10	10	2,300	2,190	95		
New Mexico	1	1	109	112	103		
Oklahoma	1	1	345	320	93		
South Dakota	1	1	210	215	102		
Texas	10	15	2,850	2,560	90		
Washington	1	1	229	180	79		
Other States	5	3	405	325	80		
United States	63	71	11,518	10,521	91		

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

2/ Data revised for "Number On Feed February 1, 2003."

3/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

**AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR CALIFORNIA AND U.S. <sup>1/</sup>**

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2002	January 2003	Feb. 15, 2003	February 2002	January 2003	Feb. 15, 2003
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled <sup>2/</sup>	Ton	119.00	98.00	101.00	91.70	92.90	91.80
Alfalfa, Baled <sup>2/</sup>	Ton	122.00	99.00	102.00	100.00	97.60	96.40
Hogs <sup>2/ 3/</sup>	Cwt.	---	---	---	38.50	33.00	34.40
Cows <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	39.00	35.00	36.50	40.60	36.90	38.10
Steers and Heifers <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	72.00	77.50	78.50	73.50	77.80	78.90
Calves <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	93.50	93.00	91.00	105.00	96.80	97.60
Sheep <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	30.00	37.00	---	34.30	41.30	---
Lambs <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	63.50	82.00	---	67.80	92.00	---
Milk Cows <sup>4/</sup>	Head	---	1,380.00	---	---	1,370.00	---
Milk Wholesale <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	11.50	10.70	10.20	13.10	11.70	11.50

<sup>1/</sup> The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

<sup>2/</sup> Previous month revised to monthly average.

<sup>3/</sup> Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

<sup>4/</sup> Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

**CALIFORNIA HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 16 PERCENT**

California's 2002 honey production, at 23.3 million pounds, was 16 percent below 2001. Producing colonies totaled 440 thousand, up 4 percent from the previous year. Yield per colony averaged 53 pounds, compared to 65 pounds produced per colony in 2001.

**U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 8 PERCENT**

Honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. The yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Colonies that produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the Commodity Loan Program.

**U.S. HONEY PRICES AT RECORD HIGH**

During 2002, honey prices increased to a record-high 128.6 cents per pound, up 83 percent from the 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State-level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op, and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2002 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some of the 2001 crop honey was sold using 2002's higher prices, which caused some revisions to the 2001 crop prices.



**HONEY PRODUCTION FOR TOP FIVE STATES AND U.S. <sup>1/</sup>**

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Average Price Per Pound <sup>2/</sup>		Value of Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000		Lbs.		1,000 Lbs.		Cents		\$1,000	
California	425	440	65	53	27,625	23,320	69	129	19,061	30,083
Florida	220	220	100	93	22,000	20,460	64	112	14,080	22,915
Minnesota	135	117	81	73	10,935	8,541	65	142	7,108	12,128
N. Dakota	280	320	96	75	26,880	24,000	69	142	18,547	34,080
S. Dakota	235	225	65	51	15,275	11,475	71	140	10,845	16,065
U.S. <sup>3/</sup>	2,506	2,524	74	68	185,461	171,140	70	129	132,225	221,638

<sup>1/</sup> For producers with five or more colonies.

<sup>2/</sup> Prices weighted by sales.

<sup>3/</sup> Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

## CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during February 2003 totaled 106.5 million pounds (dressed weight), 14 percent below last month, but 12 percent above February 2002. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February 2003, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,279 pounds; calves 131 pounds; and hogs 238 pounds.

### U.S. COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER TOTAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION DROPS FROM JANUARY

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.50 billion pounds in February, virtually unchanged from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2002.

February 2002 and 2003 both contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 2 percent from February 2002. The average live weight was 1,261 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

Veal production totaled 15.8 million pounds, 10 percent above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 83.1 thousand head, up 14 percent from February 2002. The average live weight was 316 pounds, down 10 pounds from February a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.52 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.68 million head, 2 percent above February 2002. The average live weight was 267 pounds and unchanged from February a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was down 16 percent from February 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 224.2 thousand head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 4 pounds from February a year ago.

January - February red meat production was 7.57 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was up 8 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 13 percent.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2002-03 1/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		1,000 Lbs.		Lbs.	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	90.2	102.8	116,816	131,465	1,295	1,279
U.S. Total	2,615.6	2,569.8	3,282,512	3,240,026	1,255	1,261
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	8.8	11.9	1,502	1,548	171	131
U.S. Total	73.2	83.1	23,889	26,289	326	316
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	259.4	224.2	35,592	29,872	137	133
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	176.4	179.8	39,658	42,729	225	238
U.S. Total	7,501.2	7,680.3	2,000,262	2,047,380	267	267
<b>RED MEAT</b>	February 2002	January 2003	February 2003	Feb. 03 Feb. 02	Feb. 03 Jan. 03	
	Million Lbs.			Percent		
California	94.9	123.7	106.5	112	86	
U.S. Total	3,502.1	4,075.5	3,496.5	100	86	

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal-inspection and other commercial slaughter, but excludes farm slaughter.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2002

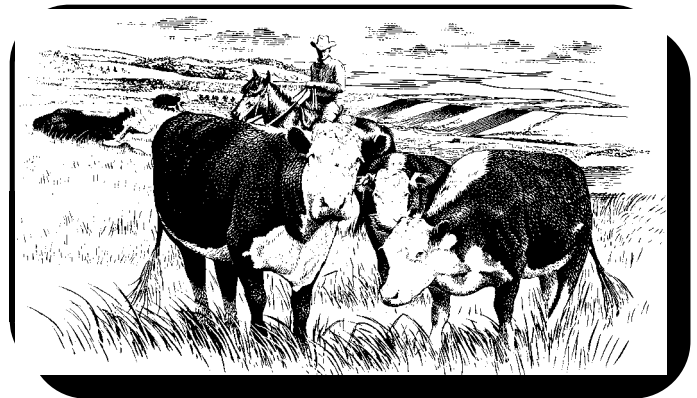
California's production of red meat in commercial plants during 2002 totaled 1.35 billion pounds, 20 percent above last year's production of 1.13 billion pounds. The month of October 2002 had the largest red meat production at 126.4 million pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the United States totaled 47.2 billion pounds in 2002, 3 percent above last year's total production of 45.7 billion. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton.

### RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTH 1/

Month	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Million Lbs.			
January	96.0	107.3	3,934.7	4,082.5
February	81.0	94.9	3,399.9	3,502.1
March	93.8	103.9	3,762.3	3,677.7
April	87.9	112.2	3,507.5	3,901.8
May	93.6	118.9	3,881.7	4,017.3
June	92.0	111.7	3,758.7	3,810.8
July	91.4	117.0	3,644.7	4,016.5
August	101.2	117.7	4,060.5	4,139.6
September	89.1	113.2	3,665.7	3,873.2
October	107.2	126.4	4,265.1	4,382.1
November	101.0	109.5	3,970.1	3,907.1
December	97.6	120.5	3,813.6	3,858.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,131.9</b>	<b>1,353.0</b>	<b>45,664.4</b>	<b>47,168.9</b>

1/ Includes total beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton, but excludes farm slaughter.



### MARKETING-YEAR AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		2001	2002	2001	2002
		Dollars			
Hogs	Cwt.	44.90	34.20	44.30	33.40
Cows 1/	Cwt.	38.90	35.90	40.90	37.30
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	74.10	68.40	75.10	70.10
Calves	Cwt.	94.10	85.40	106.00	96.40
Sheep	Cwt.	30.20	27.10	34.60	28.20
Lambs	Cwt.	67.30	69.40	66.90	74.10
Milk Cows	Head	1,620.00	1,740.00	1,500.00	1,600.00

1/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

## FARM NUMBERS

In 2002, an estimated 84.0 thousand farms operated on 27.7 million acres in California. The average farm size was 330 acres. The number of farms decreased by 1 percent from 2001, while the land in farms remained the same as the previous year.

The number of farms in the United States in 2002 is estimated at 2.16 million, up 0.1 percent from 2001. Total land in farms, at 941.5 million acres, increased 170 thousand acres from last year. The average farm size of 436 acres has decreased by one acre since 2001.

### NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS <sup>1/</sup>

State and Item		2000	2001	2002
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Number of Farms	87,500	85,000	84,000
	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	27,800	27,700	27,700
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	318	326	330
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Number of Farms	2,172,280	2,155,680	2,158,090
	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	943,090	941,310	941,480
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	434	437	436

<sup>1/</sup> A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.